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Recreation Commission Minutes 03/10/2009

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg and Nancy Campbell. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included Richard Stavros.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission made a motion to table the minutes of February 10, 2009. Ms. Campbell made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Recreation Rowing Program Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the previous meeting with Mr. Stavros. Mr. Stavros and Mr. Connelly updated the Commission on the latest details of the proposal to allow the Arlington/Belmont Rowing Club to place temporary fencing for the storage of boats and equipment to be used by the rowing program on the park property currently used for parking on Pond Lane. Mr. Connelly indicated that there did not seem to be any zoning issues and he was working with the Treasurer's office on determining the number of parking passes sold at the lot. Mr. Stavros stated that thirty-two AHS students have expressed interest in the program and that he has been receiving calls from middle school parents also expressing interest. The Commission discussed the dimensions of the fenced area and access. Mr. Connelly asked for the all staff involved with the program to be CORI checked through his office.

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer made an appointment with Mr. Stavros to meet on site to review the location. Mr. Connelly stated that the insurance would have to be in hand prior to the program beginning. Mr. Connelly also shared the recommendation from Town Counsel that the high school participants be members of US Rowing, which would provide additional insurance. Mr. Stavros indicated that all participants would be members of US Rowing.

Mr. Stavros reviewed the season length with the Commission stating that it would begin non-water practices within the next couple of week and hopes to be on the pond by the end of March. Mr. Stavros stated that the season ended around Memorial Day.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to support a section of park property for use as a storage area for the rowing boats and equipment. This area shall first be approved by Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer. The Park Commission further supports the community rowing summer programming elements as sponsored by the Park and Recreation Department. Motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 3-0.

Review of Green Dog Warrant Article

Ms. Mayer reviewed the latest proposal, hearing status, community concerns and issues concerning the Green Dog warrant article and associated warrant articles. Ms. Mayer asked if the Commissioners had reviewed the proposal given out at the last meeting and if they had any questions. Mr. Connelly stated that he had spoken with both Mr. Vitters and Mr. Robillard and they had no comments or concerns.

Ms. Campbell made a motion to have the Park and Recreation Commission support the Green Dog program and Warrant Article, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Memorial Donations

Ms. Mayer discussed the possibility of the Park Commission accepting gift/donations under a specified amount for items in the parks such as benches, play equipment and plantings. This acceptance would be at the discretion of the Commission and would not have to go to the Public Memorial Committee.

The Commission discussed what the amount should be. Ms. Mayer suggested that the threshold be amounts up to \$25,000. Mr. Connelly stated that this would keep it in line with the Capital threshold.

The Commission discussed the issue of accepting gifts in honor of or in memory of an individual. Mr. Connelly stated that he did not want to decide who was deserving and who was not but rather it should be policy based and applicable to anyone donating to a property under Park and Recreation jurisdiction.

The Commission discussed having a central location to honor donations. Mr. Connelly discussed having levels of donors at a central location.

Mr. Connelly will research the policies of other communities and draft a policy for the Commission to review.

Rink and Recreation Update

Rink – Mr. Connelly indicated that the ice rink operations would be ending on April 6th. Mr. Connelly stated that next month he would be reviewing the proposed fee changes to assist in payment of the debt service on the proposed one million dollar capital request for the necessary repairs to the existing rink.

Recreation – Mr. Connelly distributed the latest brochure for the Commission to review. Mr. Connelly stated that participation numbers were up from last year.

Special Event Approvals

Student Film (Lepracon Productions) – Menotomy Rocks Park – April 2-April 5th.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the request with the conditions that the use of generators be limited, April 5th start time was not before noon and that the Commission waive the \$5,000 bond for a student production. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 3-0.

Robbins Farm Events – (JOE – TABLE SHOULD LIST WHAT THE EVENTS ARE)

Friends of Robbins	5/2/09	9-12pm
Friends of Robbins	5/2/09	12-4pm
Friends of Robbins	7/4/09	4pm-12am
Friends of		

Robbins	8/14/09	6-11pm
Friends of Robbins	9/26/09	5pm-12am
Friends of Robbins	10/17/09	12-6pm
Friends of Robbins	11/7/09	9-12pm

The Commission reviewed the request and discussed the appropriate level of conditions. The Commission motioned to approve the requests with the three evening events (4th of July, Red Sox Game, Movie) all requiring a police detail and portable restrooms in and out on the same day. The Commission is requesting that all events be coordinated with DPW for more trash receptacles. Motion made by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Capital Update

Buzzell Field - Mr. Connelly stated that the project was complete and that funds were still being held to ensure turf quality.

Thorndike Parking – Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to send out a copy of the proposed signage for the Commission to review. Mr. Connelly stated that the hearing with the Redevelopment Board for the Special Permit would be in early April, followed by the Conservation Commission Notice of Intent filing.

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was complete and that funds were still being held to ensure turf quality.

Arlington Sports Center Feasibility Study – Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer reviewed their meeting with Sasaki after the public input meeting. Ms. Mayer stated that Sasaki was helping to break the project down into work zones and interconnected phases to assist in future planning. The Commission discussed this process. Ms. Mayer stated that Sasaki would be coming to the April meeting with the results of the matrix for Commission review and input.

Committee Updates

Comfort Facility and Friends of Parks – Mr. Connelly reviewed the latest drafts and commented on the upcoming public input session.

Green Dog Committee – Discussed earlier in the meeting

Open Space Committee – Ms. Mayer stated that the open space is working on updating the maintenance plans for open space areas and asked for Ms. Rothenberg's assistance with the plan for Robbins Farm.

Field Users – Ms. Campbell stated that the field user meeting was a success and that the groups really were working together on scheduling matters.

Correspondence

EcoFest flyer was reviewed

Other

Ms. Rothenberg discussed the FORFP purchase of mats for the swings at Robbins Farm playground. The Commission discussed this and Ms. Rothenberg will coordinate the installation with Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Rothenberg asked if Mr. Connelly could follow-up with Mr. Leonard concerning possible alternatives for improving the hill slide.

Ms. Campbell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation